

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP IN GENEVA -- HUMAN RIGHTS

1. AUSTRALIAN MISOFF (LANDALE) HOSTED LUNCHEON OF HR WEO MEMBERS 14 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS INITIATIVES BEING PREPARED BY WEST FOR 32ND GA. IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL AND US MISOFF, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND SWEDEN ATTENDED MEETING.

2. THE GROUP WAS UNANIMOUS IN APPLAUDING WESTERN EFFORTS TO GET A CONSENSUS ON U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL, BUT AGREED THAT PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE APPEAR BLEAK.

3. IN DISCUSSING ISSUE OF TORTURE, GROUP NOTED THAT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SUB-COMMISSION DURING ITS 30TH SESSION MIGHT IN THE LONG RUN ACHIEVE THE GOALS SOUGHT IN THE PROPOSED GA RESES.

4. THE THREE RESES ARE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12: THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT.

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5. THE FIRST RES. E/CN.4/SUB.2/L.673, CALLS FOR URGENT CONSIDERATION OF TORTURE AT ITS 31ST SESSION WITH A VIEW TO EXAMINING WHICH MEANS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE S-C COULD BE USED TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE STATE AUTHORITIES RESORT TO ARBITRARY ARREST, INDEFINITE DETENTION WITHOUT BAIL, TORTURE OR OTHER CRUEL, UNHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT.

6. THE SECOND RES, E/CN.4/SUB.2/L.676 INSTRUCTS TWO MEMBERS OF THE S-C TO PREPARE A PRELIMINARY STUDY, OUTLINING HUMAN RIGHTS IN COUNTRIES UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE OR EMERGENCY.

6. THE THIRD RES, E/CN.4/SUB.2/L.678, RECOMMENDS THAT THE HRC REQUEST THE ECOSOC TO AUTHORISE THE S-C CHAIRMAN TO APPOINT A WORKING GROUP OF FIVE MEMBERS TO PREPARE A DRAFT BODY OF PRINCIPLES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS SUBJECTED TO DETENTION. IT ALSO REQUESTS THE SYG TO DRAW UP AN ANALYTICAL SURVEY OF MATERIAL TO BE REVIEWED BY THE WG.

7. WHILE IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THERE WILL BE ANY CONCRETE RESULTS, EITHER ONE OR ALL OF THESE RESES COULD BE UTILIZED AS VEHICLES FOR GETTING MORE IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT TORTURE AND PERHAPS LEADING TO AN INSTRUMENT AGAINST TORTURE.

8. MISSION GENEVA WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT EVALUATE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH VIEW TOWARD INCREASING ACTIVITIES OF SUB-COMMISSION IN AREA OF TORTURE. MISSION IS NOT SUGGESTING THAT EFFORTS IN GA BE CURTAILED, BUT CALLING ATTENTION TO ACTIONS WHICH ARE QUIETLY AND SLOWLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SUB-COMMISSION AND WHICH, IN THE LONG RUN, MAY PROVE MORE PROFITABLE THAN ANY ATTEMPTED ACTION IN THE GA OR THE HRC. VANDEN HEUVEL

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